

AMENDMENT TO THE CLAIMS

1. (Currently amended) A method of training a transliteration processing system, comprising:
 - receiving a set of word pairs from different languages; and
 - using statistical textual alignment ~~without pronunciation information of the words to align~~ characters of each of the word pairs; and
 - identifying transliteration relationships based on the aligned characters; and
 - generating a transliterated output corresponding to the set of word pairs;
 - wherein the method of training the transliteration processing system does not use pronunciation information.
2. (Original) The method of claim 1 wherein receiving a set of word pairs from different languages comprises:
 - using statistical textual alignment to align words in parallel sentences to form a set.
3. (Original) The method of claim 2 wherein receiving a set of word pairs from different languages comprises:
 - identifying aligned word pairs from the set of sentences.
4. (Original) The method of claim 3 and further comprising:
 - using the transliteration relationships to identify additional word pairs from the set of sentences.
5. (Original) The method of claim 1 and further comprising:
 - calculating an alignment model based on the transliteration relationships identified.
6. (Original) The method of claim 5 and further comprising:

receiving an input text; and
generating a transliteration of the input text based on the alignment model.

7. (Original) The method of claim 5 wherein calculating the alignment model based on the transliteration relationships identified includes using the context supplied by neighboring characters.

8 – 15 (Canceled)

16. (Currently Amended) A method of training a transliteration processing system, comprising:

receiving a set of word pairs from different languages; and
using statistical textual alignment to align characters of each of the word pairs, wherein
aligning comprises aligning at least one character of one of the words of a word pair
with a null character of the other word of the word pair; and
identifying transliteration relationships based on the aligned characters; and
generating a transliterated output corresponding to the set of word pairs;
wherein the method of training the transliteration processing system does not use
pronunciation information.

17. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 16 wherein using statistical textual alignment comprises using statistical textual alignment ~~exclusively~~ to align characters of each of the word pairs.

18. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 16 and further comprising:
calculating an alignment model based on the transliteration relationships identified.

19. (Previously Presented) The method of claims 18 where calculating the alignment model based on the transliteration relationships identified includes using the context supplied by neighboring characters.

20 – 21 (Canceled)

22. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 1 wherein aligning comprises aligning at least one character of one of the words of a word pair with a null character of the other word of the word pair.

23. (New) A computer-implemented method of training a transliteration processing system, comprising:

- accessing a database of parallel texts;
 - identifying an aligned sentence pair from the database;
 - selecting candidate bilingual word pairs from the aligned sentence;
 - using at least one selected word pair to develop a transliteration model comprising character alignment; and
 - outputting the transliteration model and an aligned word pair corresponding to the selected word pair;
- wherein the method of training the transliteration processing system does not use pronunciation information.